

19 OCT 1960

Honorable William B. Widnall  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Widnall:

This is in response to a telephone request of your office that you be provided with information upon which to base a reply to the League of Women Voters of one of the larger towns in your district concerning the question of continuation of salary payments to Mr. Francis G. Powers.

Arrangements have been made to handle Mr. Powers' salary for the future in accordance with his legal rights under his contract and the provisions of applicable statutes.

As you may know, the service performed by this young man and others like him was extremely valuable for the security of this country. They were chosen on the basis of past training and other technical, mental and ideological qualifications, together with a willingness to serve and full knowledge of the dangers inherent in the task.

I would also like to note that Mr. Powers was held over 100 days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States Embassy representatives prior to his trial. Undoubtedly, the Soviets could have indoctrinated him during that period to say many things they desired to have come out at the trial. This they can accomplish effectively, even short of all of the techniques of "brainwashing."

If I may be of further assistance, would you please advise me.

Sincerely,

John S. Warner  
Legislative Counsel

OGC/JGO:pb  
Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee  
2 - Legislative Counsel  
1 - Signer

*Subject ✓*  
*C. Powers.*